PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

May 28, 1919

Have the Bd of Ch Erection a motion in the Social Hall at Klawock ?

Mr. Varian Banks,

156 5th Avenue, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Banks:

In the period between 1907 and 1910, Mr. Waggoner does not remember exactly the date, money was furnished to him at Klawock for the erection of a Social Hall. A site was purchased from an Indian, or rather some sort of relinquishment obtained of Indian rights and on this site a building was erected.

This building has fallen into a state of disrepair. It has not been used by the mission for social purposes for a number of years, to any extent. If put into shape for such use it would cost the Board more than it is worth for this purpose.

Recently, the people of the town approached me on the subject of having the building turned over to them to be rebuilt and converted into a sort of community house. I insisted that they ought to give something for it and finally told them that I thought the Board would dispose of it to them if they would raise One Hundred Dollars. This thought has been fermenting in their minds for some ten months and now they have concluded that they would like to buy the building.

In my judgement the Board will do well to dispose of it to them for One Hundred Dollars. It is fast falling into decay in that wet climate and will soon be worth nothing. It is not being used for the purpose for which it was built. Under the new order of town organization in native villages it would better be in the hands of the town council in order to meet the purposes for which it was constructed and be of some use. And also, the Board will in this manner realize something for it.

If this meets with the approval of the Finance Committee will you look up the records relative to this building. Mr. Waggoner says that all papers were turned over to your office. Such descriptions as you have on file will have to answer in making out a quit claim deed as, in so far as I know, no papers were put on record.

Since the building was erected the land on which Klawock stands has been included in the Forest Reservation. And again, since that occurred, the townsite of Klawock has been transferred from the Forestry Department to the Bureau of Education. In these processes relinquishments of former rights under former dispensations have been signed by the Board's representatives in manner unknown to me. In so far as all this applies to the parcel of ground on which the Social Hall stands it indicates that the only title the Board can give is a quit claim to such rights and holdings as the Board now has. And this will satisfy the people of Klawock.

As Mr. Waggoner remembers it the tract of land on which the building stands is 75' by 100', "reaching to salt water". The deed should thus describe the ground and refer to the building thereon as the old Social Hall.

It will not be possible to do anything final in this matter until my return in the fall but in the mean time I will be in position to proceed promptly upon my return if you will investigate as above and report to me at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

Klawock Alaska Prop

Extract from quarterly report of Rev. E. E. Bromley, Bayview, Alaska.

"You will recall that a few years ago a gymnasium was built in Klawock with missionary money costing about eight hundred dollars. The building has been in constant use ever since and has served as a public hall for the large gatherings of the people of the town, as well as for a gymnasium. On account of the fact that the "School Fair", an educational feature in connection with the Government Schools in this section, was to meet in Klawock this spring, the people wanted a larger hall. They wanted to buy the gymnasium from the mission and turn it into a town hall, but as I had no authority to sell the building, and after corresponding with Dr. Condit did not get permission to sell the building for what the people offered, I then advised the people to go ahead and enlarge the gymnasium just as they would if they owned the building. They did this and spent a little over six hundred all together, for lumber, boat hire, etc. The building is now in good repair and with proper care will stand for many years to serve the people of this town."